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## Public Survey Available for the Stephens County JointComprehensive Plan

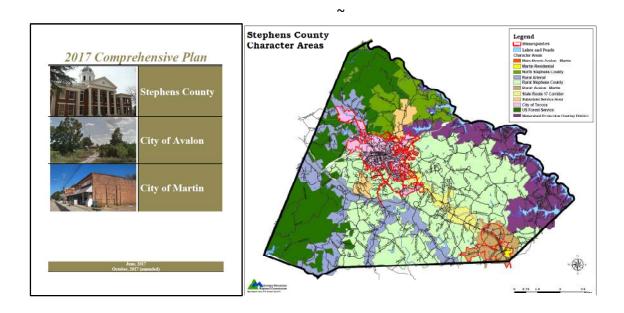
## Please take a moment to share what you want for the future of Stephens County!

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) is assisting Stephens County and the municipalities of Avalon and Martin with the update of their *Joint Comprehensive Plan*, the State required document that helps shape and coordinate local work programs for the community. This planning process is designed to ensure that major projects and policies for the community are developed with public input, ensuring a level of coordination between local and State level interests.

As part of this process there is a brief online survey asking people to give their thoughts on select issues and priorities for the city. This survey will be accessible through September 2, 2021 and is open to anyone with a vested interest in the area. Anyone wishing to participate should visit <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B5T9RP">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6B5T9RP</a>

A copy of the current plan can be found on the county's web site www.stephenscountyga.gov.

Any questions about the public involvement process should be directed to Adam Hazell at the GMRC as listed above.





## **About Local Planning in Georgia**

The Georgia Planning Act of 1989 established the framework for how local governments in Georgia plan for their future in conjunction with neighboring governments, utility providers and other stakeholders. Local comprehensive plans help governments address critical issues and opportunities while moving toward realization of its unique vision for the community's future. The planning requirements also provide technical guidance to communities in advancing the State's goals of:

- A growing and balanced economy;
- Protection of environmental, natural and cultural resources;
- Provision of infrastructure and services to support efficient growth and development patterns;
- Access to adequate and affordable housing for all residents;
- Coordination of land use planning and transportation planning to support sustainable economic development, protection of natural and cultural resources and provision of adequate and affordable housing; and
- Coordination of local planning efforts with other local service providers and authorities, neighboring communities and state and regional plans.

Local governments who develop and maintain a comprehensive plan in accordance with the minimum standards and requirements are assigned a "Qualified Local Government" (QLG) status, making them eligible for all forms of State funding and assistance. Local governments also use their comprehensive plan to monitor progress in achieving their own goals with regards to community development, effective capital improvement strategies and more.